

Parish Notices

As our services have currently been suspended, please find below the https links to join the Zoom services kindly offered by St Martin's. **Just click on the https links below to join either the Sunday or Thursday morning services.**

Sunday Morning Holy Communion 10.00am - St Martins Church Zoom Link for Services
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/856888392>

Thursday Morning Holy Worship 10.00am St Martins Church Zoom Link for Services
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/866070731>

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Will be held on 25th April, Time and place TBA.

The draft 2020 accounts for the Parochial Church Council can now be found by clicking on this link

www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk/annual%20parochial%20church%20meetings.htm

The draft accounts and supporting documents are now on their way to our Independent Examiner for presentation at the APCM due in April 2021.

Easy Fundraising –

Help the Parish of All Saints with St Philip, Maidstone by signing up to support us for FREE on #easyfundraising. You can raise donations whenever you shop online with over 4,300 retailers including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Argos, ASOS, M&S and more. This will make a BIG difference to us during this difficult time.

Sign up today:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/the-parish-of-all-saints-with-st-philip-maidstone/?referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=refsharebox

St Martins Church Community Quiz Night Invitation – Monday 15th February.

Just click on the Zoom

link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/633461023>

Meeting ID: 633 461 023

We will be open from 6.45pm

A poster is attached about the event and there are more details on the Facebook

page <https://www.facebook.com/events/17309160905743/>

**The Parish of All Saints
With St Philip, Maidstone and
St Stephen, Tovil**
www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk

**Sunday 14th March
Mothering Sunday**

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

No Parish Eucharist



Collect

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading

Ephesians 2.1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works,

so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Gospel

John 3.14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

Post Communion

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reflection is attached from +Peter

Special prayers for those in need

*Matt 5.3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven'*

Paul Crease, Vera Alflatt, Audrey Little,
Daphne Holland, Nigel Gunyon, Mary Wheeler,
Jane Sadler, Tricia (Barbara's Sister) David Johnson,
Ray Stephens,

Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion

Rosemary & John Fowler, Keith Manuell & Family

Departed

*If anyone would like to add anything to the
weekly notices please speak to
mollieneaves@gmail.com*

Parish Office - 01622 688270
office.allsaintsmaidstone@gmail.com
www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk
www.stphilipschurchmaidstone.co.uk

Our Facebook Page:
[Click Here for our Facebook Page](#)

Church Wardens:
Denise Joy – denisejoy@maidstone.gov.uk
Telephone – 07788 634047
Robert Philo –
philorob@uk.ibm.com
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God so loved the world

A while ago I came across this hymn when I was looking for inspiration for Mothering Sunday

*Mothering God, you gave us birth in the bright morning of this world
Creator, source of every breath, you are our rain, our wind, our sun
Mothering Christ you took our form, offering us your food of light,
grain of life and grape of love, your very body for our peace
Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold us close
so that in faith we root and grow, until we flower, until we know.*

Today is Mothering Sunday, cradling Sunday, nurturing Sunday; a day to reflect on the love of a God who does not control his children with clenched hands, but who longs to see his children fulfil their potential, by holding them with open hands which are firm enough to offer love and compassion when it is needed, but also open enough to encourage us to flower and grow; a model of love which mothers do their best to follow.

But Mothering Sunday also makes reference to 'mother church', a day when we reflect not just on what God longs for us as individuals, but what God longs to see in the church. 'Gather us in, the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking, the tired and the aching; all the world who long for nourishment found at Christ's feast.' The church is not here for its own sake. It is here for the sake of the world as our gospel makes clear, 'and God so loved the world.' The church is here to be a community that lives, not with closed and clenched hands, but with open, giving hands, a living, breathing community of faith that will work with God in transforming people and communities for good.

Mothering God who gave us birth, mothering Christ who took our human form, mothering Spirit who cradles us now. You have put your life into our hands. Now we put our lives into your hands. Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past, what we can be and shall be, strengthened by your grace, is yet to come. Lead us on, take us with you and give us the courage to flower and grow into who you want us to be.

The Death of Vicar of Dibley actor Trevor Peacock was announced today. He died aged 89 from an illness arising from his dementia, with which he was diagnosed in 2009.

I remember Trevor as a true gentleman, generous to a fault, with a whimsical sense of humour. He came to Maidstone to support us when we raised £100,000 to save St. Philip's spire in the early 2000s. We put on an auction, and he match-funded everything we raised. At the end of the evening, I had fun accompanying him on the piano in his impromptu renditions of Elvis numbers from the Rock 'n' roll era, of which both he and his daughter, who also attended, were extremely fond. Following on from his appearance at the auction, he invited some of us to attend the recordings of two separate Vicar of Dibley Christmas episodes as his special guests.

Trevor Peacock, born 19 May 1931, died 09 March 2021. A generous supporter of the parish, versatile actor and good friend.

Clive